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ABSTRACT

This document presents preliminary fall 1974 enrollment data on the historically black colleges and makes some comparisons with revised fall 1973 data on 898 institutions previously studied. Data indicated that: (1) First-time freshmen enrollment increased substantially between the two-years, based on aggregate figures for those 98 institutions; (2) Both the four-year/university and two-year institutions increased in the numbers of first-time freshmen they enrolled; (3) Total enrollment, however, increased only 1.6 percent, although sizable increases were indicated in the two-year sector; (4) The smallest percentage of increases was evidenced in total enrollment of the four-year public institutions; and (5) The 98 institutions enrolled a total of 187,573 students in fall 1974 an increase of 1.6 percent over the 184, 559 students enrolled in 1973. (MJM)

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Research Profile

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PRELIMINARY FALL 1974 ENROLLMENT IN HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES

This Research Profile presents preliminary Fall 1974 enrollment data on the Historically Black Colleges (HBC) and makes some comparisons with revised Fall 1973 data on 98 institutions previously studied by the Institute and included in the ISE Research Report entitled, "Degrees Granted and Enrollment Trends in Historically Black Colleges: An Eight Year Study."

Fall 1974 Enrollment

- Total First-time Freshmen increases in Black colleges exceeded national norms between 1973 and 1974. Based on preliminary data, the increase was 10.7% in Black colleges and 5.8% nationally.
- Total enrollment in Black colleges was up by 1.6% with a national increase of 5.5% in total enrollment.
- Pattern of overall growth in the last eight years is continuing into this 1974-75 academic year.

A total of 189,708 students were enrolled in 107 Historically Black Colleges and universities in the Fall 1974 semester. Of this number, 45,619 were first-time freshmen students, that is, those persons who had never before enrolled in an institution of higher education. The students enrolled at the eighty-eight (88) four-year and/or graduate and professional institutions comprised 94.6% of the total and 91.1% of the first-time freshmen enrolled. These percentages translate into 179,468 total students and 41,545 first-time freshmen enrolled in these four-year institutions. The two-year HBC accounted for 10,240 of the total and 4 074 of the first-time freshmen enrolled in Fall, 1974.

The public two-year HBC, although there are only 5, enrolled an average of 1205 total students and 470 first-time freshmen per school. The 14 private two-year institutions are small by comparison with the public schools, however, they enrolled on the average a total of 301 students of which an average of 123 were first-time freshmen.

Chart I - Opening Fall Enrollment - 1974 in 107 Historically Black Colleges

Level of Institution	Total Headcount	First-time Freshmen
Four-year and University N = 88	179,468	41,545
Two-year N = 19	10,240	4,074
Grand Total	189,708	45,619

Nationally, higher education enrollment was up for Fall 1974 based on preliminary data from the U.S. Office of Education. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education (Dec. 16, 1974), this rise is largely due to the presence of more women on campus. Preliminary data on the Black colleges is not available by sex breakdown for the 107 institutions, therefore the same conclusion cannot be drawn for the growth in Black college enrollment. It is possible that further analysis may show that different factors have affected this growth in Black college first-time freshmen enrollment.

Preliminary data on 3,037 institutions of higher education across the United States indicates that total enrollment in 1974 was up 5.5% from 1973, with approximately 10.2 million students enrolled. The largest increase was on the two-year level (+11.9%). The only decrease in total national higher education enrollment came in the four-year branches of multi-campus universities (-0.7%).

First-time freshmen enrollment increased in all of the public schools, according to tables released by the U.S. Office of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics. The private two-year institutions, however, experienced a decrease of - 3.5% in their first-time freshmen enrollment.

Graduate and professional student enrollment in the HBC institutions totaled 20,075 students, with 17,254 in the 23 public institutions and 2,821 in the 8 private institutions with graduate/professional programs.

Preliminary degrees-granted data for these same 107 institutions indicate that the total number of degrees conferred between July 1, 1973 and June 30, 1974 was 31,102. Eighty-eight four-year and university HBC conferred baccalaureates totaling 24,469 and 5,122 graduate and professional degrees were granted at 28 of the institutions. At the associate degree level, 1,511 students were granted associate degrees (this figure does not include certificates below the associate level). Eighty percent of those associate degrees were granted by 18 two-year level institutions while 17 of the four-year colleges contributed the other 20% of associate degree graduates.

Some Comparisons

Data available on 98 institutions for both Fall 1973 and Fall 1974 show that first-time freshmen enrollment increased substantially between the two-years, based on aggregate figures for those 98 institutions. The percentage change between 1972 and 1973 for freshmen in these institutions had been - 3.4%. Fall 1974 first-time freshmen enrollment increased 10.7% over Fall 1973. Both the four-year/university and two-year institutions increased in the numbers of first-time freshmen they enrolled. The overall growth rate in HBC first-time freshmen (10.7%) far outweighed that of all colleges nationally (5.8%). Total enrollment, however, increased by only 1.6% although sizeable increases were indicated in the two-year sector.

All institutional sectors had increases in both total and first-time enrollment, however, the smallest percentage of increases (0.4%) was evidenced in total enrollment of the four-year public institutions. The greatest percentage change (17.7%) was in the two-year public institutions.

CHART II

Comparisons on Enrollment for Fall 1973 and 1974 of 98 Historically Black Colleges*

Type of Institution	Control	Total Enrollment 1973+	Percentage Change 1973-1974	Total Enrollment 1974**		First-Time Enrollment 1973+	Percentage Change 1973-1974	First-Time Enrollment 1974**
Four-Year and University	Public	130,981	0.4	131,569		24,962	10.3	27,541
	Private	46,933	3.3	48,498		12,376	10.2	13,635
	Total	177,914	1.2	180,067		37,338	10.3	41,176
Two-Year	Public	4,492	15.2	5,173		1,756	17.7	2,067
	Private	2,153	5.6	2,273		882	15.9	1,022
	Total	6,645	12.1	7,446		2,638	17.1	3,089
	Grand Total	184,559	1.6	187,513		39,976	10.7	44,265

*Previously studied in "Degrees Granted and Enrollment Trends in Historically Black Colleges: An Eight Year Study"

**Fall 1974 Data is preliminary data and therefore subject to change.

+Some revisions of previous figures reported were made based on new information from some colleges.

These 98 institutions enrolled a total of 187,573 students in Fall 1974, an increase of 1.6% over the 184,559 students enrolled in 1973.

It appears that the recent national pattern of increased student enrollment at the two-year level has had an effect on these 12 colleges in the HBC two-year institutional sector as well.

A more in-depth study of these 98 institutions and their growth rates for enrollment and degrees granted, over the time period from 1966 to 1973, is available in a report recently completed by the Institute for Services to Education, Inc. (Blake, et al; 1974). The report, entitled, "Degrees Granted and Enrollment Trends in Historically Black Colleges: An Eight Year Study" examines HBC enrollment over these eight years from the broad perspective of total, first-time freshmen and graduate students enrolled in the various institutional sectors. In addition, comparisons are made with trends of similar groups of colleges in the national higher education community over this same period.

Degrees granted are broken down by type of degree, with baccalaureates, graduate and professional degrees conferred being included in this study. Further, on the baccalaureate level, five major academic areas are presented to trace the number of students between 1966 and 1973, who have been awarded degrees in these areas of concentration. Data is presented by institutional control and comparisons with national data are made.

Data included in this study were obtained from two major sources: The 98 HBC included in the study, via surveys made of these institutions by the Management Information Systems Directorate of the Institute for Services to Education and, the National Center for Educational Statistics of the U.S. Office of Education. The data presented show the following:

(a) Total enrollment increased from 139,444 in 1966 to 184,559 in 1973, an increase of approximately 32% with the average percentage of change being +4% per year.

(b) First-time freshmen enrollment declined over the eight year period with the sharpest drops being between 1966 and 1967 (-6.1%); and 1972 and 1973 (-3.4%).

(c) The growth in the HBC was in graduate students and in other than freshmen, undergraduate enrollment.

(d) Total enrollment by sex showed a slightly higher proportion of women than men, although, nationally, the converse is true.

(e) Total enrollment in the public HBC expanded at a higher growth rate than that of the private HBC.

(f) In 1972-73, 31,280 baccalaureate, graduate and professional degrees were awarded in the HBC; of those, 25,094 were baccalaureates and this represented 59.5% more than those granted on 1965-66.

(g) Degree patterns by field showed slow or no growth in the rate of bachelor's degrees granted in the Social Sciences and Education although the total number has increased. The percentage of degrees in the Biological and Physical Sciences, as compared to the total, is declining.

(h) Degrees awarded in Business fields tripled in proportion from 1966 to 1973.

The general conclusions drawn from this study are:

(1) The facts dispel the assumption that historically Black colleges are dying due to a changing world of integration in higher education. They have instead grown in enrollment at approximately the same rate as all four-year colleges;

(2) The decreases seen in the first-time freshmen enrollments were compensated for by larger increases in graduate enrollment and enrollment above the first-year;

(3) This suggests a potential for continued growth based on expansion of graduate programs and the recruitment of transfers from junior, community and other two-year colleges who now enroll a larger portion of college students;

(4) The proportions of degrees granted in selected fields (declines in some fields, education in particular; and increases in others, e.g. business) points to a set of institutions in transition toward a wider range of opportunities for their students;

(5) Over 16[illegible]0 baccalaureates were awarded over eight years and this represents a large stream of Black manpower into the American economy;

(6) The most conservative estimates of the earning power of these graduates would be $1.65 billion per year, based on a low average income of $10,000.

This report on enrollment and degrees conferred from 1966 to 1973 in the Historically Black Colleges can be obtained from the Institute for Services to Education, Inc.

In summary, 1974 appeared to be a good year for enrollment in Historically Black Colleges, particularly first-time freshmen enrollment. The declines in first-time freshmen experienced in the past two years (1972 and 1973) hopefully did not set a pattern for the future. Instead, one can speculate a possible growth in the HBC. Along those lines, though, an examination of Fall 1974 enrollment of Black students nationally is in order. Could it be that overall, equal access and opportunity is not all that it was cut out to be.

Perhaps many able Black students are finding that Black colleges are still their major avenues to higher education or otherwise the new financial aid programs, or lack of them, may be having a devastating impact on Black and other minority student enrollment in colleges and universities across the country.

Forthcoming reports will address some of these issues as well as other factors which have a bearing on enrollment of Black students in the Historically Black Colleges.

The MIS Research Profile is a periodic reporting service of the TACTICS Management Information Systems Directorate of the Institute for Services to Education, Inc. The purpose of this Research Profile is to make use of the data contained in the MIS Data Bank (containing figures on Black higher education), by researching and reporting on relevant issues of interest to developing institutions. Additional copies of this Profile may be purchased at the rate of $.20 per copy. You may subscribe to this reporting service by contacting:

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